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3.— *Topographical Description and Historical Sketch of Plainfield, in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, May, 1834.*
By JACOB PORTER. Greenfield. 1834. 8vo. pp. 44.

FROM this pamphlet, which, though not lately published, has but recently fallen into our hands, it appears, that Plainfield, at the northwest corner of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, on the eastern side of the Green Mountain range (incorporated in 1807), has geological features of some interest. Some strata (mica and talcose slate) the author says, are "turned up, so that their *inclination* is *perpendicular*," an effect which he ascribes to "the general deluge." A variety of minerals occur, some of which are prized by collectors. The writer thinks, that gold will probably be found in the beds of talcose slate, which occupy a large portion of the town, it having been discovered, in the same range, in Vermont. But as long as the good people of Plainfield, being short of one thousand, can, in addition to woollen fabrics, manufacture forty-eight thousand palm-leaf hats, in one year, valued at eight thousand nine hundred dollars; turn shoe-lasts and broom-handles by means of an "improved machine"; raise Indian corn, wheat, and other grains, to which, it seems, their soil is adapted, to say nothing of the sugar-maple and potatoes; and, besides, pasture some four thousand sheep; they will do well, we think, to seek gold elsewhere than in the bowels of their mountains,—though, as to the probability (the author puts the question) of a profitable manufacture of "molasses" from "potatoes," which grow there "of excellent quality," we must demur a little.

We are not disposed to question what the writer asserts, that "walking in the woods is extremely delightful, especially in the spring;" and we can readily believe him, when he says, that he "has enjoyed many a ramble through the grove, and over

'The craggy hill, where rocks, with wild flowers crowned,
Burst from the shady copse and verdant ground;
Where sportive nature every form assumes,
And, sweetly lavish, spreads a thousand blooms.' " — p. 10.

The author is fond of quoting poetry, and so are we. But to get back to sober prose, which, for the present, is needful, Plainfield will not suffer from a comparison with other towns in the interior of the Commonwealth, in regard to its efforts in the cause of education. In this connexion, the Rev. Moses

Hallock, the first minister of the place, deserves honorable mention. The labors of such men are not always estimated at their full worth. To their patient and humble toils, to the direction they succeed in giving to the youthful mind, and the ardor of truth and knowledge they inspire, the world is often more indebted than it is aware. Among the pupils of Mr. Hallock, we find the names of several individuals since extensively known to the public. The poet Bryant is one.

In conclusion, we can truly say, that the pamphlet has interested us in the reading ; and, though it betrays some marks of carelessness, it contains many facts which are worth being known and preserved. Such sketches of local history show the working of our free institutions, and the elements of our growth and prosperity. In a statistical view, they are too valuable to be dispensed with.

4. — *An Historical Discourse, delivered at the Celebration of the Second Centennial Anniversary of the First Baptist Church, in Providence, November 7th, 1839.* By WILLIAM HAGUE, Pastor of the Church. Providence. 1839. 12mo. pp. 192.

THE Discourse of Mr. Hague, though not remarkably rich in original materials, holds a worthy place among the productions called forth by similar occasions at the present day. The subject, as the author could not but be aware, presents some points of great interest, and, as was proper, he has dwelt upon them at considerable length. Treating of the first Baptist Church in America, founded, too, by Roger Williams and his associates, he would very naturally be led to say something of those principles of the soul's freedom, which found so strenuous an advocate in that pure-minded man, in many respects in advance of his age. We are not disposed to complain of the length to which he has extended his inquiries and remarks on this subject, disproportionate as the space given to it may at first view seem. By many, this will be regarded as the most interesting portion of the performance.

Mr. Hague is at some pains to show, that Roger Williams was not the discoverer of those great "moral truths," which animated and solaced him in all his wanderings and labors, and which he embodied in the polity of his new Commonwealth.